

MAB 075
1 July 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Groups

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Abidjan Bureau--June 1981

I. OPERATIONS

Monitorial/Editorial

1. The bureau made two important changes in its staffing pattern during June to increase its alert capability and improve the timeliness of reporting. On 13 June, the bureau began an experimental Saturday evening shift, staffed by a single monitor and covering the bureau's usual evening hours from 1400 to 2230 GMT. Although no editor is present, one is on call for major developments. The monitor on duty takes live as many programs as possible, while at the same time recording others for summarizing the following morning. The monitor is also free, as time permits, to process items he considers worthwhile. All the program summaries are reviewed by the editor on Sunday morning, and any further processing required is assigned to the Sunday morning crew. Although the volume of wordage produced by the extra shift has not been great so far, the bureau is clearly in a better position to report major developments. Further experimenting with and revision of the coverage package will continue.

2. In order to improve the timeliness of bureau filing of topical news items, a third monitor has been added to the 1400-2230 shift on weekdays, when a heavy load of listening and summarizing has often left the monitors with insufficient time for processing. During the first week of operations, monitor [redacted] also spent some of his time cruising for new programs that could be added to coverage, particularly from those countries that have been only lightly covered up till now. STAT

3. French/Spanish/Portuguese monitor trainee [redacted] a Liberian, entered on duty 1 June, and began her basic monitoring training under [redacted]. In the initial phase of training, she worked only on French and English programs under [redacted] close supervision. However, her progress has been rapid; by the end of the month about 2,000 words of Spanish copy had been filed from Malabo radio (Equatorial Guinea), and the bureau had also filed its first Portuguese item, a short news report from the Bissau newspaper NO PINTCHA. Two Malabo radio newscasts, at 1900, and 2100, are being regularly recorded for delayed processing on the dayshift, and [redacted] has been assigned responsibility for Portuguese-language newspaper scrutiny. [redacted] will begin studying spoken Portuguese under the cultural attache of the Brazilian Embassy in early July. As part of the training process, the bureau has begun making tapes of selected Portuguese broadcasts. STAT
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II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. During the month the Embassy Personnel Office completed a wage survey of private sector employers in the Abidjan area which included 25 representative firms. Although the Embassy had expected the survey results to support an increase in the compensation scale for local employees, in fact it showed the Embassy to be already among the city's higher paying employers. While no general increase in the pay scale could be justified, the survey also showed that most employers provide their employees with some form of group health insurance. The Embassy will therefore be studying the feasibility of bringing its own benefits into line with other employers in this respect.

2. Part-time French translator [redacted] and teletype operator [redacted] received PSI's during June.

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B. Buildings and Grounds

Following last month's security survey of the bureau, several steps have been taken to upgrade physical security. Engineer [redacted] installed an Advisor VI ultra-sonic intrusion alarm system protecting the main entrance and operations areas of the building. At the same time, a solid door and dead bolt lock were installed on the most commonly used entrance, and bolts were installed on other doors.

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III. VISITS

The chief of Engineering Division, [redacted] paid an engineering and management inspection visit to Abidjan Bureau 26-29 June. During his stay, he was able to familiarize himself thoroughly with the physical plant and technical installations and to review and discuss planned improvements, including the possible remote monitoring site in Dakar, Senegal.

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Chief, Abidjan Bureau

Attachment: Monthly Production Report